

Barlas

The **Barlas** (Mongolian: *Barulās*;^[1] Chagatay/Persian: بِرْلَاس *Barlās*; also *Berlās*) were a Mongol^[1] and later Turkicized^{[2][3]} nomadic confederation in Central Asia.^{[4][5]} With military roots in one of the regiments of the original Mongol army, the Barlas spawned two major imperial dynasties in Asia: the Timurid Empire in Central Asia and Persia; and its

continuation, the Mughal Empire in South Asia.

Barlas

برلاس

Parent house	<u>Borjigin</u>
Country	<u>Transoxiana</u>
Founder	<u>Qarachar Barlas</u>
Titles	<u>Khan</u> , <u>Sheikh</u> , <u>Mirza</u> , <u>Baig</u> , <u>Shah</u> , <u>Sardar</u> , <u>Emir</u> , <u>Ghazi</u> , <u>Sultan</u>
Estate(s)	<u>Kesh</u> ; <u>Samarqand</u>
Cadet branches	<u>Timurid</u>

Origins



Babur, founder of the Mughal Empire.

According to the Secret History of the Mongols, written during the reign of Ögedei Khan [r. 1229–1241], the Barlas shared ancestry with the Borjigin, the imperial clan of Genghis Khan and his successors, and other Mongol clans. The leading clan

of the Barlas traced its origin to Qarachar Barlas,^[2] head of one of Chagatai's regiments. Qarachar Barlas was a descendant of the legendary Mongol warlord Bodonchir (*Bodon Achir; Bodon'ar Mungqaq*), who was also considered a direct ancestor of Genghis Khan.^[6] The internal structure of the Barlas' leading clan consisted of five major lineages—tracing back to the sons of Qarachar— who were important in matters of inheritance but did not constitute separate political or territorial entities.^[7]

The Barlas controlled the region of Kish (modern Shahrisabz, Uzbekistan) and all

of its lineages seem to have been associated with this region.^[8] In contrast to most neighboring tribes who remained nomadic, the Barlas were a sedentary tribe.^[9] Due to extensive contacts with the native population of Central Asia, the tribe had adopted the religion of Islam,^[3] and the Chagatai language, a Turkic language of the Qarluq branch, which was heavily influenced by Arabic and Persian.^[10] Although the Barlas were not always exogamous, most marriages recorded were outside the tribe.^[11]

Timurids and Mughals



Map of the Timurid Empire

Its most famous representatives were the Timurids, a dynasty founded by the conqueror Timur (*Tamerlane*) in the 14th century, who ruled over modern-day Iran, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and almost the entire rest of the Caucasus, Afghanistan, much of Central Asia, as well as parts of contemporary Pakistan, Mesopotamia, and Anatolia.^[12] One of his descendants, Babur, later founded the

Mughal Empire of Central Asia and South Asia.

See also

- Turco-Mongol tradition
- Mongol Empire
- Timurid dynasty
- Mughal Empire
- Muhammad Khwaja
- Hajji Beg

References

1. Grupper, S. M. 'A Barulas Family Narrative in the Yuan Shih: Some Neglected Prosopographical and Institutional Sources

on Timurid Origins.' *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi* 8 (1992–94): 11–97

2. B.F. Manz, *The rise and rule of Tamerlan*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1989, p. 28: "... We know definitely that the leading clan of the Barlas tribe traced its origin to Qarachar Barlas, head of one of Chaghadai's regiments ... These then were the most prominent members of the Ulus Chaghadai: the old Mongolian tribes – Barlas, Arlat, Soldus and Jalayir ..."

3. M.S. Asimov & C. E. Bosworth, *History of Civilizations of Central Asia*, UNESCO Regional Office, 1998, ISBN 92-3-103467-7, p. 320: "... One of his followers was [...] Timur of the Barlas tribe. This Mongol tribe had settled [...] in the valley of Kashka Darya, intermingling with the Turkish population, adopting their religion (Islam) and gradually giving up its own nomadic ways, like a number of other Mongol tribes in Transoxania ..."

4. *Encyclopædia Britannica*, "Timur", Online Academic Edition, 2007. Quotation: "Timur was a member of the Barlas tribe, a Mongol subgroup that had settled in Transoxania (now roughly corresponding to Uzbekistan) after taking part in Genghis Khan's son Chagatai's campaigns in that region. Timur thus grew up in what was known as the Chagatai khanate." ...
5. G.R. Garthwaite, "The Persians", Malden, ISBN 978-1-55786-860-2, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2007. (p. 148)
6. *The Secret History of the Mongols*, transl. by I. De Rachewiltz, Chapter I Archived February 23, 2007, at the Wayback Machine.

7. B.F. Manz, *The rise and rule of Tamerlan*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1989, p.157
8. B.F. Manz, *The rise and rule of Tamerlan*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1989, p. 156–7
9. Gérard Chaliand, *A Global History of War: From Assyria to the Twenty-First Century*, University of California Press, California 2014, p. 151
10. G. Doerfer, "Chaghatay Archived November 18, 2007, at the Wayback Machine", in *Encyclopædia Iranica, Online Edition* 2007.
11. B.F. Manz, *The rise and rule of Tamerlan*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1989, p. 157

12. René Grousset, *The Empire of the Steppes: A History of Central Asia*, Rutgers University Press, 1988. ISBN 0-8135-0627-1 (p.409)

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